

HOUSE RESOLUTION 41  
By Ferguson

A RESOLUTION To recognize Eddie Bilbrey on the occasion of  
his retirement.

WHEREAS, It is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those citizens who through their extraordinary efforts have distinguished themselves as economic leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, Eddie Bilbrey is one such estimable person who has served Bilbrey's Furniture Company with probity for almost sixty years; and

WHEREAS, Due primarily to his health problems, Mr. Bilbrey will be retiring and closing Bilbrey's Furniture Company; the closing of this remarkable business ends ninety-three years and three generations of Bilbrey family furniture stores; and

WHEREAS, The first Bilbrey Store was opened in 1907 in Livingston by Eddie Bilbrey's Grandfather, K. L. Bilbrey, and Great-uncle, H. J. Bilbrey, and was later sold to a Bilbrey cousin; and

WHEREAS, A second hardware and furniture store was opened in Crossville by K. L. Bilbrey and H.J. Bilbrey in 1913; and the Bilbrey's Furniture Company of Harriman was opened and managed by Eddie Bilbrey's cousin, Ed Bilbrey, in 1946 until it closed in 1991; and

WHEREAS, Eddie Bilbrey's father, with the help of his family, opened Bilbrey's Furniture Company in Rockwood in 1941; the building in which the store was located was erected in 1891; the Bilbreys have shared the space with doctors, dentists, and the American Legion; private apartments and a millinery and dry good store were at various times also located in the building; churches have held numerous functions in this historic building, and the third floor once housed a grand opera room; although, this room is now unoccupied, a \$36,000 lead crystal chandelier remains, testifying to the glorious past of this building and the lives that flourished in it; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bilbrey is admired and well-liked by the Rockwood community; and his presence in the downtown area of Rockwood will be sorely missed; and

WHEREAS, Eddie Bilbrey exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that is characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, This General Assembly, at the closing of Bilbrey's Furniture Company, finds it appropriate to honor the family that built this furniture empire and the contributions that they have made to the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Throughout his life, Eddie Bilbrey has performed his work with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm and has earned the respect of this legislative body; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That we recognize and honor Mr. Eddie Bilbrey upon the occasion of his retirement, for his meritorious service to his family and Bilbrey's Furniture Company, and commend him on sixty years of professional excellence; appreciating the significance and sadness of the closing of this family business, we offer our gratitude to the past and present owners and employees of the Bilbrey's family furniture stores for ninety-three years of outstanding service.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we also extend to Eddie Bilbrey our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.